

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Self-Evaluation to qualify as an Arizona Environmentally Healthy School

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is sponsoring a new recognition program to help promote and assist individual schools to become an Arizona Environmentally Healthy (AEH) school. This program recognizes policies and actions taken by schools to help ensure a healthy and safe learning and teaching environment. The checklist below is to be used by school principals, or their designees, to certify to ADEQ that their schools have taken actions to safeguard their students, facility, and other personnel against environmental pollutants and other potential environmental risks.

The following list includes a set of voluntary actions that can be taken to help make your school and its grounds safe from potential environmental health risks. If your school can certify that it meets fourteen (14) of the following (22) criteria, it will be designated as an AEH school and receive an ADEQ certificate stating that your school is environmentally healthy.

Please check the box next to the criteria that your school meets:

- 1) School utilizes ADEQ's School Bus Idling Reduction Program during bus pick-up time. ☐
- 2) School has initiated a No Idling Zone and encouraged parents to turn off their vehicle engines. ☐
- 3) School has written criteria to identify students subject to asthma attacks and have developed individual Asthma Action Plans to assist those children. ☐
- 4) School has begun the acquisition of low polluting school buses in order to phase-out the use of higher polluting diesel buses. ☐
- 5) School has developed Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) procedures to address sources of indoor air pollution. ☐
- 6) School has adopted and posted a non-smoking policy to insure a tobacco smoke-free environment. ☐
- 7) School has been tested for radon and it has levels of 4 pCi/L or lower. ☐
- 8) School utilizes the U.S. EPA's "Healthy Seat Tool" computerized self-evaluation program and is using this guide in making improvements to their school. ☐
- 9) School has a waste recycling program. ☐
- 10) School has been designed and constructed to meet "Green School" criteria or has been upgraded and remodeled using "Green Standards." ☐
- 11) School has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices instead of a regular program of spraying pesticides. ☐

- 12) School has tested for traces of lead in their drinking fountains. ☐
- 13) School has developed and implemented a Chemical Management Plan for purchasing, storing and disposing of chemical supplies. ☐
- 14) School has incorporated environmental educational information in their science or other appropriate courses. ☐
- 15) School has distributed the ADEQ Earth Day Pledge and 75% of students have signed the Pledge ☐
- 16) K through 8th grade school classes have an active “Sunwise” program which educates young people to guard against exposure to the sun’s ultra violet rays. ☐
- 17) School is taking actions to trade-in mercury thermometers for mercury free thermometers and students are learning in a mercury free environment. ☐
- 18) School addresses visible mold using a certified specialist. ☐
- 19) School has conducted an asbestos inspection and, if necessary, has addressed asbestos issues using a certified specialist. ☐
- 20) School has eliminated opportunities in the school yard for water retention on the grounds, including low spots and use of old tires. This issue is particularly important as it relates to the control of the West Nile virus. ☐
- 21) If the school has wood play sets and other structures treated with the arsenic-containing preservative chromated copper arsenate (CCA), these sets and structures have been removed or treated with non-toxic sealants. ☐
- 22) School, where applicable, has developed a tanks maintenance manual and implemented best management practices for underground and above ground storage tanks. ☐
- 23) Other environmental health measure(s). Please specify: ☐

Please certify that your school has met fourteen (14) of the above criteria:

Name of School:

School Address:

Phone Number:

Name of Principal or Designee:

Email:

Signature of Principal or Designee:

Definitions	Additional Resources, Involved Agencies and their Web sites
1) School Bus Idling Reduction Program: ADEQ launched a program in August 2004, with Arizona school districts to reduce	http://www.azdeq.gov/function/about/bus.html http://www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/antiidling.htm

children's exposure to harmful diesel emissions from buses by voluntarily reducing idling near schools.	
2) No idling Zone: School has adopted a reduced idling policy and has posted sign to encourage parents to turn off their car engines when dropping off or picking up children.	http://www.azdeq.gov/function/about/bus.html http://www.airwatchnorthwest.org/wa/NO_IDLE/
3) Asthma Action Plan: A plan that is completed by the student's doctor that describes the individual's asthma and how to properly medicate and modify activities based on the child's individual symptoms. Each asthmatic student should have a plan on file.	http://www.azasthma.org/ http://www.azdeq.gov/function/about/ceh.html#focus http://azdhs.gov/phs/cdpc/asthma http://www.epa.gov/asthma/programs.html
4) Low polluting school buses: There are existing funding programs for schools to retrofit high polluting diesel school buses in order to reduce exposure to harmful toxic and other air pollutants. Contact ADEQ's Air Quality Division for more information.	http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/index.html http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/
5) Indoor Air Quality: Actions taken to safeguard indoor air.	http://www.azdeq.gov/function/about/ceh.html http://www.epa.gov/iaq
6) No Smoking Policy: Schools should have a strict no smoking policy and ensure it is prominently posted at their facilities.	http://www.smokefreearizona.org/info-downloads.asp http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/managingasthma.html
7) Radon Testing: Radon is a naturally occurring invisible gas that can cause respiratory illness. Certified radon inspection should be performed if they have not already been done.	http://www.epa.gov/radon http://www.arra.state.az.us/RadonWeb/incidence.htm
8) Healthy Seat Tool: A comprehensive program for improving schools environmental health conditions through a step by step program. See website for more information.	http://www.epa.gov/schools1/healthyseat/healthyseatnews.html
9) Waste Recycling Program: The ADEQ Recycling Program encourages Arizonans to reduce, reuse, recycle and buy recycled products as an alternative to solid waste disposal in landfills.	http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/index.html
10) Green School: A school that has been constructed or renovated to provide healthy indoor air, natural sunlight, water conservation and energy efficient construction. See Web site for comprehensive description.	http://www.azdeq.gov/function/about/green1.html http://www.epa.gov/schools
11) Integrated Pest Management: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safer and often less costly option for effective pest management in the school community. A school IPM program employs commonsense strategies to reduce sources of food, water, and hiding places for pests in school buildings and grounds.	http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/hsepubs.htm#chemical
12) Lead in drinking water: Drinking water can be a possible source of lead exposure for children. When good quality water gets into old water pipes, taps solder and other plumbing components, lead in those components may leach into the water and pose a health threat. ADEQ has prepared information to enable schools, if necessary, to take steps to address potential exposure.	http://www.azdeq.gov/function/about/ceh.html http://azdhs.gov/phs/oei/invsvr/lead/ http://www.epa.gov/lead/
13) Chemical Management Plan- See Schools Chemical Cleanout and Prevention Campaign (SC3). The Schools Chemical Cleanout and Prevention Campaign (SC3) seeks to address the costly accidents, chemical spills, and fires that occur in schools by not only cleaning out excess, legacy, unused, and improperly stored chemicals but also by going a step further and implementing preventive mechanisms in schools.	http://www.epa.gov/schools http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/hsepubs.htm www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conservation/schools/resources.htm
14) Environmental Curriculum: Your school has integrated environmental issues of air and water quality and effective waste	http://projectwet.org http://www.epa.gov/epahome/educational.htm

management in its science curriculum.	
15) Earth Day Pledge: ADEQ has asked elementary and junior high students to sign a simple Pledge promising to recycle, conserve energy and save water.	http://www.azdeq.gov http://www.azenvirokids.gov
16) SunWise: The SunWise Program is a free sun safety curriculum that teaches children how to protect themselves from overexposure to the sun and prevent skin cancer.	http://azdhs.gov/phs/sunwise/ http://www.epa.gov/sunwise1/doc/sunpro8-26.pdf
17) Mercury in thermometers: Mercury in glass thermometers can escape through breakage. Glass thermometers in schools should be properly disposed of and replaced.	http://www.azdeq.gov/function/about/ceh.html http://www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm#thermometer
18) Mold: Exposure to mold can cause a variety of health effects and symptoms, including allergic reactions and possible asthma attacks.	http://azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/invsurv/air_qual/detectionmold.htm http://www.ica.state.az.us/Divisions/osh/safety_health_compliance.html http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources.html http://www.cdc.gov/mold/
19) Asbestos: Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber, once widely used in building materials for its thermal insulating properties and fire resistance. Although the removal of asbestos from school buildings is an option for schools, many schools and local education agencies have chosen to manage some asbestos-containing building material in place.	http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/asbestos/ http://www.azdeq.gov/pipermail/media/2007-October/000072.html http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/asbestos_in_schools.html
20) West Nile Virus: The West Nile Virus is a virus that lives in mosquitoes and birds. However, humans can sometimes be infected with the virus if they are bitten by a mosquito that is carrying the virus. The West Nile Virus can pose a significant health threat; Therefore water retention spots should be removed.	http://azdhs.gov/phs/oids/westnile/index.htm
21) Arsenic Treated Wood Play sets: Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) is a chemical wood preservative containing chromium, copper and arsenic. CCA is used in pressure treated wood to protect wood from rotting due to insects and microbial agents. However, older wooden school play equipment should be tested for possible presence of CCA. Pressure treated wood containing CCA is no longer being produced for use in most residential settings, including decks and play sets.	http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/antimicrobials/reregistration/cca/ http://www.ehponline.org/docs/2004/7197/abstract.html
22) Above Ground or Underground Storage Tanks: Oil and or gasoline storage tanks may develop leaks over time. ADEQ's Tank Division can provide free technical assistance in assessing and remediating tank problems.	http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/ust/index.html
23) ADDITIONAL Environmental Health Activities: Please list and briefly describe, any other environmental improvement made at your school not listed in the 22 items listed above. These additional activities count toward reaching the 14 minimum for ADEQ certification.	